

# DOROTHY



**Sail No: 7**

**Launch Date: 1894**

**Type: Thames Rater**

**Owner: Ossie Stewart**

<b>Designer:</b>	<i>Linton Hope</i>	<b>Builder:</b>	<i>Thames Yacht Building Company</i>
<b>Construction:</b>	<i>Carvel teak on oak frames</i>	<b>Sail Plan:</b>	<i>Gaff</i>
<b>LOA/LWL:</b>	<i>10m / 6.7m</i>	<b>Beam:</b>	<i>2.3m</i>
<b>Draft:</b>	<i>1.2m</i>	<b>Displacement:</b>	<i>2.8 Tonnes</i>

## History

DOROTHY was built for a Mr. Lawson of Mayfair, who raced her as a Thames Rater; one of the earliest racing classes still surviving to this day as the Thames A Rater which has evolved into a spindly, elongated, "size zero" version of DOROTHY. It is difficult to convey how revolutionary DOROTHY must have been in her day, the sport of yachting was in its infancy and most boats at that time were a domesticated version of a working boat.

Linton Hope, her designer expressed the challenge of designing and sailing a Rater thus; "River sailing is to ordinary sea sailing as fly fishing is to bottom fishing, or as snipe shooting to shooting tame pheasant".

In 1912 she was bought by Charles Foliott and moved to Dartmouth, where she stayed until she was rescued from a beach by a local boat builder in the 1980s. As a boat yard owner, working pretty well exclusively on wooden boats he was to rebuild her from a bare hull for his own family use also replacing the rotten deck and coach roof in the style of the original. In near exquisite condition she was kept on a mooring on the river Dart.

A sometime member of the British Classic Yacht Club, DOROTHY is also included on the Register of Historic Vessels. She now sails from Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight.